

Now we have gone to focus on the teachers. If only the teachers were better prepared, if only more teachers were certified, if only more teachers understood what they are doing, then we could reform the school system.

Not for one moment will I disagree that we need quality teachers. We need systems that provide certified teachers, qualified teachers, right across the board.

In my district, one-third of the schools in my district, where the poorest children live, half the teachers are not certified. Each school has at least 50 percent not certified teachers, 50 percent unqualified teachers, because they have been given a chance, in some cases, 9 or 10 years, to get certified, and some have not wanted to care.

Recently the United Federation of Teachers, the teachers union, said to the uncertified teachers, if you want to go back to school, we will pay your tuition. We will make it possible for you to get certified.

They were shocked to find that the majority of the people they were addressing turned it down. When they turned it down, they said to the union people, "This school system needs our bodies. We cannot be replaced. We are not worried about losing our jobs. You need our bodies."

Mr. Speaker, I want to end by saying that at the heart of education reform, education investment, which should be the heart of this year's budget, should be \$110 billion over a 10-year period for construction, because that is the way we show our commitment for education as we go into the 21st century as the leaders of the world and as the leaders on this whole globe. We ought to take this budget seriously. We ought to make the decisions that will carry our Nation forward, and not make the error that the Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians made when they were at the pinnacle of power and had the world in their hands.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2000

Mr. DREIER (during the special order of Mr. OWENS), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-495) on the resolution (H. Res. 419) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty by providing that the income tax rate bracket amounts, and the amount of the standard deduction, for joint returns shall be twice the amounts applicable to unmarried individuals, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEALING WITH THE BUDGET SURPLUS AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GANSKE). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a very important issue facing the American public, something that we dealt with today in the Committee on the Budget and something I talked about with the constituents I represent in the First Congressional District of Wisconsin throughout the past 2 months during the Christmas recess, and that is this: What are we going to do about our Social Security surplus, what are we going to do about our non-Social Security surplus, and what are we going to do about our national debt? These are the issues that are driving our Federal budget process now. In doing so, the President, as he is required by the Constitution, sent the budget that he is proposing to pass into law to Congress yesterday.

This morning we had a hearing in the Committee on the Budget where the President's budget director outlined the budget. I would like to share a few of those details with the viewing public tonight and my colleagues.

First, we finally have agreement, we have progress on the fact that all Social Security money should go to Social Security in paying off the debt we owe to the program.

If you recall, Mr. Speaker, last year in this well, before the Nation and before Congress, the President in his State of the Union address said he wanted to dedicate 62 percent of the Social Security trust fund to Social Security, thereby spending 38 percent on other government programs.

Last year this Congress said no, that is not enough. I actually authored the Social Security lockbox bill with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) which requires that from now on, if you are going to pay Social Security taxes, it goes to Social Security; that 100 percent of the Social Security taxes we pay, 100 percent of the Social Security surpluses actually go to the program, go to the trust fund and go to pay off our national debt so we can create more solvency in the Social Security trust fund.

So there was a difference last year. Congress was for protecting 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund last year; the President was for protecting 62 percent of the Social Security trust fund.

Now we have good news. The President has finally come around and agreed that, finally, for the first time in 30 years, we should pass legislation to protect 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund. I am very encouraged by this news.

However, I am a little concerned at what Jack Lew, the OMB Director, the President's chief budget writer, said this morning, and that was this: They support the idea of putting 100 percent of the Social Security surpluses back into Social Security and paying off our debt, but they are not in support of leg-

islation to ensure that this happens. That is a little odd, I think. So I would like to see this administration walk the walk and not just talk the talk.

But then what happens when we look at the non-Social Security surpluses? Today in America people are overpaying their taxes. They are overpaying their taxes in two very fundamental ways: They are overpaying their taxes with Social Security taxes. That spending of the surplus has occurred for years. We have actually raided that fund for 30 years, this government has, to spend on other government programs.

For the first time in 30 years, last year this Congress stopped the raid on the Social Security trust fund. I am seeking to pass our lockbox legislation which will make sure we never go back to the days of raiding the Social Security trust fund.

But on the other side of the Federal Government ledger book, the non-Social Security part, millions of American taxpayers, hard-working families, are overpaying their income taxes. So we now have a non-Social Security surplus approaching \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. That is astounding.

We were looking at deficits as far as the eye could see just a few years ago. Now we have the opportunity, now we have the good fortune, based on good discipline in spending and based on a great economy, to have a \$4 trillion surplus; \$2 trillion for Social Security, \$2 trillion from an overpayment of income taxes.

Here is what the President is proposing to do. He is finally agreeing with Congress that we take the \$2 trillion from the Social Security surplus and apply that back to Social Security, towards shoring up the program and paying off our National debt, which consequently is some money we owe back to Social Security.

But on this non-Social Security part, the income tax overpayment, the President in this budget is proposing to spend \$1.3 trillion of that surplus. He is proposing to spend 70 percent of the non-Social Security surplus on new government programs in Washington.

Specifically, as we analyzed this budget in the Committee on the Budget as we did so this morning, the President is calling forth creation of 84 new Federal spending programs to be launched this year by the Federal Government, to be paid for by the income tax overpayments of the American taxpayer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I held over 60 town hall meetings in the district I serve in southern Wisconsin, the First Congressional District, where I posed a lot of questions to my constituents to ask them about this. They said that if they are given a choice between tax reduction and debt reduction with this money, they were evenly split. But if they were given a choice between spending their income tax overpayments on new spending in Washington or reducing our national debt further